

MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE AMENDED CLAIMSJuly 24, 2002IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 6.

Please amend claims 1, 7, 9, 18, 26, 31, 44 and
47 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A mower head comprising:
a deck having at least three sides and at least
one side wall depending from said deck;
at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to
5 said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said
deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said
blade; and
a guard assembly comprising:
an actuating member mounted on said deck,
10 a guard attached to said actuating member
and pivotally attached to said deck via a hinge which is
mounted to said deck and extends at an angle in relation
to [along] two of said at least three sides of said deck,
and
15 a flap depending from said guard and
movable in relation to said guard, said flap being
oriented in a plane spaced from a plane of said guard.
7. (Twice Amended) The mower head of claim [6]
1 wherein said actuating member is mounted on said deck at
a location spaced from said hinge.
9. (Twice Amended) A mower head comprising:
a deck having at least three sides;
at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to
5 said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said
deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said
blade; and

a guard assembly comprising:
an actuating member mounted on said deck,
a hinge extending between two of said at
10 least three sides of said deck at an angle with respect to
said two of said at least three sides,
a guard attached to said actuating member
and pivotally attached to said deck via said hinge, and
a flap which depends from said guard and is
15 movable in relation to said guard, said flap being
oriented in a plane spaced from a plane of said guard.

18. (Thrice Amended) A mower head comprising:
a deck comprising:
at least four sides, and
three side walls, one depending from each
5 of three of said at least four sides, wherein two of said
three side walls are rigid;
at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to
said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said
deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said
10 blade; and
a guard assembly comprising:
an actuating member mounted on said deck,
a hinge extending at an angle in relation
to [between] two adjacent ones of said at least four
15 sides of said deck,
a guard attached to said actuating member
and pivotally attached to said deck via said hinge, and
a flap which depends from said guard and is
movable in relation to said guard, said flap being
20 oriented in a plane spaced apart from a plane of said
guard.

26. (Twice Amended) A mower head comprising:
a deck having at least three sides;

at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to
said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said
5 deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said
blade; and

a guard assembly comprising:

an actuating member mounted on said deck;

10 a guard pivotally attached to said deck at
an obtuse angle, via a hinge, in relation to sides of said
deck which are adjacent opposed ends of said guard, said
guard including a first wall which comprises an
approximately straight edge and a second wall which
comprises a plurality of angled sections, and

15 a flap which depends from said guard and is
oriented in a plane spaced apart from the plane of said
guard.

31. (Twice Amended) A mower head comprising:

a deck having at least three sides;

5 at least one cutting blade rotatably mounted to
said deck on an axis extending through said deck, said
deck being disposed above and generally parallel to said
blade;

a guard assembly comprising:

10 a hinge extending at an angle between two
of said at least three sides of said deck,

a guard pivotally attached to said deck via
said hinge;

a holding member for holding said guard in
one rotational position in relation to said deck; and

15 a flap extending from said guard and
movable in relation to said guard, said flap being
oriented in a plane spaced apart from a plane of said
guard.

44. (Amended) The mower guard of claim 41, wherein

said angle is formed between [about] 12 o'clock and 2 o'clock positions in relation to the front side of said deck.

47. (Amended) The mower guard of claim 45, wherein said angle is formed between [about] 12 o'clock and 2 o'clock positions in relation to the front side of said deck.